

Hi,

I would like to express my strong opposition to any actions by the FCC to allow further consolidation of the mega-corporations that already own most of our public media in the United States. Having more, separate, owners of all of the different media outlets (e.g., radio stations, public & private, newspapers, TV stations, cable networks, satellite networks, news networks, internet service providers, internet website providers) tends to allow for a greater diversity of views and opinions than if one corporation owns everything. In this republican democracy we call the USA, having a well-informed citizenry about the issues of the day is essential. And yet, we have GE, one of the largest defense contractors, owning one of the three TV networks. Do you think e'll see any programming on their TV news about the contamination of the Delaware River over the years with GE PCBs or critical of nuclear power or building more nuclear weapons so we can threaten to blow up part of the world a little more efficiently? Of course not.

I should add that the FCC's own lack of publicity about the probable changes in these media ownership rules is a case in point. Chairman Powell's lack of action on holding hearings in every major city in this country about this huge change in rules is itself a stealth tactic on the road to making this country less democratic and more fascists. Americans are generous, but already entirely to ignorant about the global political and war issues of the day--compared to Canadians and the British, for instance, with their own BBC & Canadian broadcasting systems. Do not take actions that will further increase this ignorance. Even Bush is now trying to retract some of his own "Axis of Evil" comment--which was based on this national ignorance. Instead choose the high path: hold hearings on this issue for a year, throughout this land, and learn that people want more diversity of views and ownership in the media, not less!!